

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a honeycomb formed body ~~by use of a forming material including water and two or more types of aggregate particulate materials containing fine particles having an average particle diameter of 10 μ m or less, body,~~ the method comprising:

a mixing step of mixing (first mixing) the two or more types of aggregate particulate materials containing fine particles having an average particle diameter or 10 μ m or less to thereby obtain a forming blend (dry powder); ~~and~~

a kneading step of adding water to the forming blend (dry powder) to create a forming blend (wet powder) and kneading ~~them~~ the forming blend (wet powder) to thereby obtain a clay,

wherein at least the mixing step mixes the materials so as to inhibit generation of an agglomerate and set a TG mixture degree to 0.2 or less by use of either of the aggregate particulate materials which are classified beforehand to remove the mixed agglomerate before performing the mixing or whose surfaces are coated before start of the mixing of the aggregate particulate materials and means for mixing the materials while applying pressurizing vibration to the materials in order to avoid the mixture of the agglomerate into the clay, and

the clay obtained in this matter is formed into a honeycomb structure in which a large number of cells are portioned and formed by partition walls, and dried to obtain the honeycomb formed body.

32. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, further comprising:

the kneading step of kneading the forming blend (wet powder) to obtain the clay after the mixing performed by further adding water to the forming blend (dry powder) obtained by the first mixing and mixing (second mixing) them to obtain a forming blend (wet powder).

33. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein when water is added, a surfactant is further added as a dispersant.

34. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein the pressurizing vibration is generated by containing the forming material and pebbles in a container, and vibrating the container.

35. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein the mixing step is performed using a mixer having a stirring blade, and

the mixing is carried out by rotating the stirring blade to stir the forming material while applying a shearing force to the forming material.

36. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein the mixing step and the kneading step are performed with individual devices, respectively, and

a mixer which performs the mixing step is directly connected to a kneader which performs the kneading step.

37. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein ~~as the aggregate particulate material, there is used~~ material includes a cordierite forming material which contains alumina (Al_2O_3) fine particles

having an average particle diameter of 10 μm or less and/or aluminum hydroxide ($\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$) fine particles having an average particle diameter of 10 μm or less.

38. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein water is added while being sprayed.

39. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing the honeycomb formed body according to claim 31, wherein the aggregate particulate material includes a material containing a powder passed through a sieve whose aperture is $4/5$ or less of a slit width of a die for extrusion-molding the honeycomb formed body ~~is used as the aggregate particulate material.~~ body.

40-42. (Canceled)